



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

DIRK KEMPTHORNE – Governor
KARL B. KURTZ – Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
450 West State Street, 10th Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0036
PHONE 208-334-5625
FAX 208-334-5926

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chandra Story
(208) 334-6681

**Nationally Renowned Mother and Daughter Mental Health Advocates
Team Up for Children's Mental Health Conference**

National mental health advocates Mary and Kristy Worthen will present at the 2005 Idaho System of Care Conference slated for May 2-3, at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa. This year's conference, entitled "We Have the Strength to Change" is expected to draw more than 400 participants.

Mary Worthen, author of "Journey not chosen..Destination not known" is a national advocate who speaks to doctors, therapists, hospital administrators and mental health staff at continuing medical education conferences throughout the United States. Worthen and her daughter Kristy met with President Bush in 2004, encouraging him to support to all Americans who have a mental illness.

Kristy Worthen is a professional artist and national advocate for open access to new lines of medication and better treatment plans for those who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. She was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1999 and has toured all fifty states in 2002 with a mental health flag she designed and hand painted. Her flag was flown over the Idaho State Capitol Building in December 2002 and will be displayed during the 2005 Idaho Conference.

More than 17,000 Idaho children are affected by serious emotional disturbances. Children affected by serious emotional disturbances often have difficulty at home, school and in the community.

The Idaho System of Care Conference is a celebration of accomplishments and is designed to support and motivate communities in the state. Participants will learn how to bring their community together as a “system of care” to help families of children affected by serious emotional disturbances. In a system of care, families work with professionals to develop a treatment plan that is focused on the needs of the child and is based on the strengths of the entire family.

A pre-conference event will be held on May 1, with cross-cultural entertainment, ropes challenge course, and a reception for families. A complete schedule of events is attached to this news release.

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(Editors: For additional information please contact Chandra Story at 208-334-6681)